WCCO - TV - 5:00 P.M NEWCAST (9-11-2002)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxUZTuURPy4 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxUZTuURPy4)

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From Tuesday, September 11th, 2001 5:00 P.M NEWSCAST. Local Twin Cities news and reaction to the attacks.

WCCO-TV (CBS) (Minneapolis-Saint Paul)

- Coverage runs from 4:55 P.M C.T - 5:30 P.M C.T

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idea what that might look like david martin uh we're going to go to bob orr has some new information in just a moment but stunned disbelief as a first then a second plane rams the world trade center freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faceless coward the towers collapsed to the streets below leaving a gaping hole in a once familiar skyline and sending shockwaves around the world an extremely vicious cowardly attack but we are the united states of america it was an attack on america and this is wcco 4 news [Music] i'm emilia santaniello and i'm don shelby we never thought it could happen here but now it has terrorism attacks in major cities on the east coast around 8 a.m the unthinkable happens two planes intentionally flown into the upper floors of the trade center towers you can see the jet crashing into the building exploding on impact both towers burst into flames and then collapse like a deck of cards no exact number known yet but thousands may be dead including hundreds of firefighters more people are buried under the buildings at this hour two more buildings are burning one of them just collapsed around nine a third plane flew into the pentagon part of that building that houses the army eventually tumbled down burn victims are taken out on stretchers and just when you thought it was over a fourth plane crashes outside of pittsburgh pennsylvania a passenger aboard the plane manages to call 9-1-1 and say that the plane was hijacked here's a closer look at how quickly the attacks unfolded the first strike hit new york at 8 45 a.m eastern time just a little more than 15 minutes later another hijacked jumbo jet hit a second second tower of the world trade center

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second tower of the world trade center by 9 43 a third jet had crashed into the pentagon near washington d.c and then about a half hour later it appears a fourth suicide attack crashed outside pittsburgh at 10 10 a.m it's not clear if terrorists had aimed that jet at any target it is also a little unclear exactly which jet hit which building but here's what we know about the airlines involved one of the jets was an american airlines flight out of boston headed for los angeles the second american airlines jet had been scheduled to fly from dulles both of the other jets were owned by united airlines one newark to san francisco the fourth united airlines jumbo jet out of boston bound to los angeles here in the twin cities we're feeling the effects of today's attack on america dozens of businesses closed their doors and sent employees home randy kaye was in downtown minneapolis when the day was cut short she's here to share what she saw well don what i saw on our city streets was a mix of emotions i saw fear i saw sadness and concern as many of us watched the events unfold this morning we wondered what's next who's next first the world trade center then the pentagon then pennsylvania metro areas were the obvious target and folks in downtown minneapolis had no plan to be the next bullseye [Music] this may go down as the shortest work day in twin cities history just to pack up and leave employees arrive at work just in time to leave we were evacuated i was in the ids tower first i think you know it's minneapolis the ids is not nationally known i really doubt it would be a target but then that glimmer

of you know that that thought of oh my gosh you know you don't wanna your life is worth more than just second guessing reality sets in thousands make a break from the metro it's the evening rush at 10 a.m i don't want to take the risk so they they said we could go home so i took them up on the offer the mood's crazy i mean we have people in our offices that are crying and you know hoping the best for everybody we don't know what to do

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everybody we don't know what to do everyone just wants to go home and call their families and it's really emotional those not going home are on the corner voicing concern and i don't want to start crying so no it's very sad it scares living daylights out of you it's horrible just horrible i have just really a horrible feeling inside julie ferchell's daughter's school is right next to the federal building julie wasn't taking any chances i think it's pretty sad because half of new york lived with smoke and we watched that on the tv at our school young or old what's happening to our country today hurts it's like depression it's like the worst feeling it's like a member of the family has died really now some people we spoke with actually refused to go home from their offices today they wanted to send a message back to those terrorists letting them know they are not in control but behind that message you can bet those people are mourning minnesotans we spoke with hope the country pulls together instead of letting it tear us apart well we're going to go to the government right now who is holding a press conference let's hear what he has to say in our lifetime it's a time when we need to gather all our strength brace ourselves for this continuing saga i want people to understand that it's not over yet we don't know if it's over yet and we need to be continually prepared it's time when we should put aside the less important aspects of our lives and show our complete support for our democracy and our democratic leaders to president bush i pledge support and complete confidence from the state of minnesota and any support that we can offer to the people of america who are hurt and have lost loved ones and family terri and i

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loved ones and family terri and i offer our most sincere condolences on behalf of the people of minnesota i offer our prayers and be assured that the united states of america will overcome this day we've did it before we will do it again thank you commissioner weaver thank you governor first of all i want to thank the citizens of minnesota for their efforts in trying to go about business as usual today this is a difficult frightening time but again that we ask the minnesotans remain calm there remains absolutely no indication through all our reports today that there's any threat to any facility or people in minnesota minnesota is not in a state of emergency we have opened the emergency operations center and will keep that operation open for the next 48 hours throughout tonight and throughout tomorrow night to make sure that people have good information fast and then it's accurate i want to be clear that citizens should continue to use the 9-1-1 system for personal emergencies but to avoid using that system for emergencies related to any kind of terrorist activity emergency operation center operators we'll provide general information that's the 24 hour hotline that's been discussed that's going to remain open and throughout to 11 o'clock tonight beginning up again tomorrow at 7 am we did confirm that there was a bomb threat this morning made to the veterans hospital earlier today we confer that also was a hoax the hospital was evacuated was swept it was clear and there was no bomb found there all have been no other threats to minnesotans safety and again i want to emphasize there's no reason to believe that there's any threat to any site in minnesota or any minnesotans in an attempt to mean a sense of

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in an attempt to mean a sense of normalcy today governor turner ensured that the schools were kept open that's charlie weaver the commissioner of public safety the governor said that the americans will overcome this day as they have overcome other days like this in the past for the first time in history all planes across the country are grounded one of the planes that crashed into the world trade center was an american airlines flight the other is believed to be a united airlines flight northwest airlines called us early today and said that

none of its planes were involved nelson garcia is standing by now at the international airport where thousands of travelers are stranded nelson well this type of shutdown is unprecedented it will be the longest shutdown in the history of the minneapolis-st paul airport and i can tell you that security out here is airtight it's all a part of what the faa calls operation ground stop and that means that all flights are on hold to at least 11 a.m tomorrow morning there are so many stranded passengers in fact that all of the hotels in this area are booked up now most of those people were already on the ground but for those in the air that was some of the scariest moments for more than one thousand passengers pilots delivered a chilling in-flight message and he said they've been instructed to get all planes down and it sounded you could tell everyone was very concerned i it was strange i thought actually that maybe a space shuttle was at an emergency landing or one of the satellites went down or something well the first thing you think is that they might not be telling you something there's something wrong with the aircraft six flights in all were diverted here including three korean airplanes headed for chicago the airport is now trying to find accommodations for those 800 passengers once on the ground many people were shocked to see the tragedy it's hard to not have tears i mean it's a terrible thing i know the first thing i did when i got here was i called home crying it was totally incredible news i mean would ever think that such a horrible thing would happen

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thing would happen so of course i was a bit scared at first but how did this happen what where where is where is it going to go what's you know what what's next hundreds of outgoing and connecting flights were canceled as well my flight has been canceled my daughter's supposed to leave tomorrow morning for hawaii and i don't really want to get back on a plane and i don't want her getting on a plane tomorrow morning either k-9 patrols are sniffing for bombs the planes have also been searched for explosives we've gone to increased emergency alert our police officers are on 12-hour shifts and we'll have an increased visible presence in front of the terminal building in the main terminal building here that's comforting for those hoping to fly out tomorrow i think it'll be safe at that time because i feel that the terrorists will probably want to make one day of it i'm just glad i'm on the ground honestly we're not gonna fly back we're we're gonna find a way on wheels the airport held a briefing just a few minutes ago we now know that actually it was six international flights that were diverted here and an unknown number of domestic flights now if you have a ticket on northwest airlines book for travel from today through friday you can either change that flight or get a full refund without penalty if it's booked for saturday or beyond however regular rules apply and you may face a penalty if you want to change it or if you want a refund again flights on all airlines are on hold till at least 11 a.m tomorrow if you are trying to fly out you're advised to contact the airline first to find out if that flight will in fact take place and if you are headed over here you're asked to come over two hours early because of the tighter security measures reporting live at the airport i'm nelson garcia the mall of america the most popular tourist destination in the state didn't even open today the traffic control sign over 35 w just south of downtown minneapolis announced the closing this afternoon and that's where noelle walker joins us amelia i am in an empty parking lot the parking lots are empty the stores are closed the mall in america is shut down for the entire day now the head office says it is for the safety of the people who

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it is for the safety of the people who come here every day and out of respect for today's victims i am a little rattle this is kind of scary the mall of america is hundreds of miles from the chaos and debris i'm just told to come up here and secure the door i'm trying to see if i can go home or what but the impact of today's suspected terrorist attacks hits close to home once the second world trade building collapsed then they said it was closed and told us to go immediately the mall of america closed before it opened today security evacuated employees at 9 30 this morning and told shoppers to go home it's very unnerving i think you know to to realize that our country is you know in this situation it's very vulnerable i guess i'm really saddened that maybe we haven't woken up to some of this vulnerability before barricades block parking ramps and police and security officers are on heightened alert this again is a precautionary step we have no reason to believe that we're a target we've received no threats but again the safety of our guests is our top priority on average 100 thousand people visit the mall of america each day twelve thousand people work here the reason for

concern is in the name it's not a political building but it's an american building again the mall of america everything in it from camp snoopy to shops to restaurants closed for the rest of the day they do plan to reopen tomorrow morning live at the mall of america i'm noelle walker and the ids tower in downtown minneapolis decided to play it safe today and close down emphasize however that there have been no threats directed at the ids center and everyone evacuated the 51-story building this morning a spokesperson said the idea shut down because it is such a recognized building by late afternoon all federal buildings in the twin cities and all across the country were closed down many employees say they were concerned about their safety because federal buildings can be such high profile targets

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such high profile targets and you can see we have extra guards out front and and so i guess i feel a little better knowing that they're doing things also for security reasons the federal reserve added additional security to its armored truck convoys that carry money on a daily basis schools around the state took extra precautions today some closed but most stayed open including the inner district school in downtown minneapolis where wcco's darcy polland went today i'm thinking it's like a regular day of school this was anything but a regular day here at the inter-district downtown school in minneapolis it came as a surprise for me because i mean i'm like no this can't be happening older students watched the horrors in new york and washington d.c unfold on tv when i saw the buildings i came in when i saw the buildings with a big hole in the top you know and this and i was just thinking like you know how many people's in that building you know um everything that's going on i'm thinking that's a dream i'm not really seeing this meantime school staff was taking precautions to keep the students safe for the time being we're going to stay put and we're going to have our kids in the school we can't send kids home to homes that don't have parents in them it just doesn't work that way doors were double checked to make sure they remained locked and administrators kept in close contact with police for any special instructions i think it's important for students parents and everybody else to see that there's no panicking even so parents stop by throughout the day some to take their children home others since i worked close this downtown i thought i'd stop in and just check on the children while classes continued students spent the day trying to grasp what happened i was really confused i was didn't know what to think after a while it kind of hit me and you know it hurt the school serves 10 different school districts and arraignment arrangements aren't in place to evacuate students to one of the suburban schools if the need arises we want to bring you one more piece of breaking news on this story that continues to develop

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continues to develop explosions have been seen in afghanistan's capital take a look at some pictures these are from cnn the video shows flaring bursts of light and occasionally flame afghanistan is the country where suspected terrorist mastermind osama bin laden is being sheltered earlier today the country's hardline taliban rulers rejected suggestions that bin laden was responsible for terror attacks in new york and washington although he is considered now by at least two government sources the chief suspect in today's actions the air national guard went on its highest state of alert today sealing up its base near the airport cement barricades blocked the gate today and security personnel searched all cars for bombs air guardsmen with m16s patrolled the fence line near the crosstown highway the base went to threatcon delta this afternoon that is the highest of four levels of security while the base is on high alert no guardsmen have been called up to duty president bush vowed today to hunt down and punish the people responsible for this attack but whether that mission will be left to the military or the legal system is still to be determined this afternoon i sat down with general doyle larson u.s air force retired general to talk about what needs to happen to protect ourselves against this kind of attack in the future it's very difficult to defend against terrorism but to me the worst thing we ever did in the middle seventies was to reduce dramatically the number of agents that we have working the bad guys overseas we cut it practically in half and the idea by the director of central intelligence admiral turner and then in those days was we can do everything from satellite we can take pictures of them electronically we can monitor everything we're doing but imagery won't go through bricks and mortar and and certainly electronics won't tell you what the man is planning

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you what the man is planning what's going through his gray matter and that has to come from human intelligence and we have just cut down drastically that's the first line of defense as you can imagine the phones are ringing off the hook at the office of emergency management and alan cox joins us now with details within minutes of hearing news reports of the attacks on the east coast the governor ordered the lights turned on here the emergency operations center in downtown saint paul this is the nerve center for dealing with the risk of terrorism in minnesota for being here it's really important in all our communications today that we re-emphasize the importance of staying calm these are the people who are paid to expect the worst 70 state personnel from every major agency gathered in the basement of a st paul office building last activated for springtime floods they're going under the assumption that it's not over emergency information center can help everything should be secure at this time 20 volunteers staff a state hotline trying to keep the public from tying up 911 emergency staffers warn twin cities hospitals to be prepared in case they get burn victims from the east the national guard is on alert but not called up state personnel practiced the drill for responding to a terrorism attack just two weeks ago they emphasized this show of force is not because they have information that minnesota is a target we'll make sure information is accurate and that everyone gets it so we're connected to all the chiefs and sheriffs we're connecting with state agencies to make sure there's a consistent message and that is there's no indication of any threat to minnesota and let's not give in to the terrorists the state has a terrorism response plan that was updated the beginning of this year it warns that the risk of terrorism has been increasing in minnesota we'll have details of that report and of that assumed risk coming up tonight at 10 o'clock for now this operation center is staying

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for now this operation center is staying open at least through 7 am and possibly beyond that and the state's hotline for people with concerns will stay open through that time too reporting live at the minnesota emergency operations center i'm alan cox and cities across the country immediately went on high alert as were to the attacks spread minneapolis coordinated police from around the city and set the security plan in place from city hall caroline lowe has more no one can remember a site like this minneapolis officers standing guard all day on the steps here at city hall the entrance across from the federal building was the only one open today as the city tried to go about its business as usual but anyone who wanted to go inside had purses and packages checked by police and every van or truck making a delivery was also inspected inside city hall public safety officials huddled communicating with other agencies mapping out emergency plans many developed after the oklahoma city bombing everyone is at a high state of alert and awareness and we are all in communications with the appropriate law enforcement organization so that we can make smart decisions hennepin county deputies were also part of the beefed up law enforcement visibility standing by outside the government center in the jail everyone here was on edge but city officials urged residents to remain calm for right now what we want to do is protect the citizens of our community we want to encourage everyone to act responsibly and calmly and do not take any actions against anyone into their own into their own hands it is a time when many people pray president bush has asked us to do just that a lot of us do that to seek answers people from all faiths are gathering at the basilica that's where rick fuentes joins us now rick

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rick do you hear me well today's the day many people are turning to prayer for answers and about an hour of multi-denominational service will begin at st mary's basilica earlier today at the university of minnesota students of many faiths gather to pray each in their own way please join me in reflective silence with 45 000 students it's easy to forget many of the you are visitors here some from new york others have their hearts there neuroscience major take khaled hasn't heard from his two uncles at least one for sure that works in the world trade center we haven't heard anything about it we pray for the victims of violence we pray for the perpetrators of violence for those that use interfaith campus coalition said prayers in the languages of many faiths [Music] it shows that all people of faith are affected by something like this senior brett kaufer just finished an internship in new york it won't sink in until i go back to new york fly into jfk and not see the world

trade center because that's one of the first things i look for the used president mark udoff's own family was in new york he says they are fine for right now i think we all need to time out from our regular activities the use twin city campus canceled classes as of noon udop says students need time to heal and counseling services will be available we pray that we might know a day when violence will be no more now about a dozen people are here at st mary's staff here say that people have been coming in all day looking for some sort of answers to what has happened today everyone is welcome to six o'clock service which will be administered by father gillespie and by rabbi zimmerman reporting live in downtown minneapolis i'm rick fuentes the people of america responded almost as quickly as rescue personnel did in new york the word went out for

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in new york the word went out for emergency blood donations and by the thousands new yorkers turned out performing long lines in response to the pictures of devastation that they saw on tv well minnesotans heard the plea from half a country away and dennis dota has that story amelia historically folks in the midwest are the most generous in the nation when it comes to blood donations now if after today's heartbreaking tragedy you need some reassurance people do still care for one another care for total strangers you can find that reassurance at our local blood banks response here has been overwhelming at the memorial blood center of minnesota in minneapolis the line to give snaked out into the parking lot from a jam-packed waiting room where the wait exceeded two hours i was amazed when i came in and when i was waiting here at the number of people in the waiting room and i really felt so proud of people for being here and for doing this um i was sitting at home watching the news all morning just feeling kind of helpless i couldn't watch the news anymore at this particular blood donation center they normally see 75 to 100 blood donors in a day well this is not a normal day and conservatively they will see 10 times that just felt very sad and i'm glad that i can do something if anything you know to help some people out every bed was full every technician engaged with lab workers sorting and processing as quickly as possible then shuttling the bounty of this heartfelt response to tragedy off to overflow coolers there is no doubt say blood center directors the donor's precious gifts will be needed on the east coast for weeks to come the new york blood centers probably met most of their needs to this point but they won't be able to continue that so we're going to need blood in the coming days and weeks jamori emma just moved here from new york city she and her husband steve found a blood center through the phone book then rolled up their sleeves knowing but for the grace of god they or their loved ones could have been victims i feel rick

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victims i feel rick well anyone wanting to give would be wise to call and make an appointment with your neighborhood blood center in fact you're being urged to call first and the metro you can call the red cross at 651-291-4607 outstate you can call 1-800 give life you can also reach the memorial blood centers of minnesota at [Music] zero by the 612-871-3300 memorial blood centers usually close at four they're opening their hours and doors until nine o'clock tonight and tomorrow night and one other way you can help out is to donate money to the american red cross and we've set up a phone bank for you to make your donations or get information about donating and uh the toll-free number they're [Music] make the 877-223-9226 donation right over the phone these volunteers will be on hand at channel 4 all through the evening amelia back to you thanks dennis governor is comparing the attack to pearl harbor and when the number of casualties are in it could be much worse pat kessler joins us now with more reaction from the governor amelia just during the last several minutes the governor and mrs ventura offered their condolences to the victims of terrorism in new york in washington and elsewhere the governor pledged his full support to president bush now around the state though he is saying that this is business as usual he did activate almost immediately this morning the emergency operations center which is just behind me they are monitoring here any possible threats against the people of minnesota although they state very clearly there have been no credible threats nothing is in the offing right now but should something happen this emergency operations center is prepared to deal with it today government business as usual the schools remained open roads were open and state offices remained open governor ventura asked state employees to stay at their desks and stay on duty unless they were told to go home the governor did in fact compare this to pearl harbor the

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compare this to pearl harbor the difference he said we don't know who the enemy is this time reporting live from the emergency operations center in st paul i'm pat kessler as the investigation of the terrorist attacks develop one of the focuses will be on what air traffic controllers in new york saw on their radar screens a minnesota air traffic controller we spoke with in farmington says control crews may have known that the two hijacked airliners were headed toward the world trade center but went on to say the folks were just us to do anything to stop the impending crashes if the transponder was operational and depending on what was going on in the cockpit of the aircraft the pilot can change to a hijack mode the transponder will squawk hijack and the controller will immediately recognize that the plane is in a hijack situation i can only speculate as to the uh you know as to what happened after that with with the different calls that were made i can't even imagine the trauma that the the potential trauma that the controller is going through right now a feeling of helplessness disbelief horror that was those would probably be the the three adjectives that i would use it's just uh just sadness former vice president of the united states walter mondale is describing the attacks as stunning when we asked him to compare this day to any day in american history he said it is like pearl harbor this is the equivalent of war today totally a surprise but in terms of an internal attack by terrorists i don't think there's a thing that remotely compares to it in the united states response from the international community was quick condemning the acts of terrorism as cowardly there was sporadic celebration by palestinians in the west bank however a spokesperson for the islamic

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however a spokesperson for the islamic jihad said quote we are against the killings of citizens cnn is reporting that there is a strong link to the terrorist osama bin laden but in an earlier statement the taliban government of afghanistan denied responsibility from the french government the attacks are monstrance from lebanon we're shocked we send our condolences to the united states we heard from other world leaders including yasir arafat and british prime minister tony blair first of all i am offering my condolences the condolences of the palestinian people to the to the american president the president bush to his government to the american people for this terrible attack i'm afraid we can only imagine the terror and the carnage there and the many many innocent people that will have lost their lives once again we see terrorism we see terrorists people who don't believe in democracy people who believe that with the destruction of buildings with the murder of people they can somehow achieve a political purpose they can destroy buildings they can kill people and we will be saddened by this tragedy but they will never be allowed to kill the spirit of democracy because of the events of today there are a number of cancellations we'd like to tell you about first of all major league baseball has postponed all games for today so has minor league baseball and major league soccer pga has cancelled all thursday rounds and here in minnesota author salman rushdie has canceled an appearance in saint paul he was scheduled to speak tonight at the fitzgerald theater we could not get to the twin cities hormel foods it has postponed this

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hormel foods it has postponed this weekend's grand opening of the spam museum hormel plans to donate products to the disaster relief organizations at work in new york to help those affected by the attacks we're going to get a quick check on the weather from meteorologist mike fairborne who's up on the roof mike not a lot of focus on the weather today of course but we would like to give you a quick forecast first of all we did hit 82 degrees here in the twin cities today a little bit of summer returning here for us and it looks like it's going to be short live because by tomorrow we're going to drop down to around 72 degrees for a high and the extended outlook uh we're going to continue cooler temperatures on into the weekend it looks going to stay dry at least until saturday when we have a chance of some sprinkles so that's kind of what's been going on and what's going on over the next few days back to you guys all right thank you mike all right here's a recap on the attack on america as it is being called by cbs news terrorists crashed two planes into the twin towers of the world trade center a jetliner slammed into the pentagon a fourth plane then for some reason we do not know why crashed just outside of pittsburgh in a field thousands of people on board the planes inside the

buildings the number killed in these plane crashes could be as high as 700. u.s officials are reporting now that they believe that they have certain information that osama bin laden is behind the attacks now osama bin laden if you're not familiar with that name but you ought to be by this uh this time uh was also accused in a series of attacks including the bombing of the u.s embassies in darcelon tanzania and also in nairobi kenya those are the two most recent attacks and he is being protected by the taliban government in afghanistan right now president bush is at the strategic air command headquarters in omaha nebraska he will be addressing the nation tonight we have a late word that he has left off at air force base in nebraska that he is flying we believe uh headed to the white house for tonight's address and you know this has really been a very emotional day for us to cover the news

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emotional day for us to cover the news and and for you the viewers and we want to say goodbye to you but we want to leave you with these sights and sounds which have been seared into your memory [Music] so receiving news which will be part of our continuing coverage of the attack on america sandy that was just excellent my

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